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Serial No. 10/020,257

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 6 (Cancelled)

7. (Withdrawn) A method of preventing contamination of a kit for collection of material containing DNA, the contamination being the presence of DNA on kit components prior to collection of a DNA sample, the method comprising the steps of:

placing the kit components within a housing,
exposing said housing containing said kit components to an effective quantity of
an agent for disabling DNA from interfering with subsequent specimen
specific DNA analysis.

8. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said exposing step comprises exposure to gamma radiation.

9. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said exposing step comprises exposure to ethylene oxide.

10. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said exposing step comprises exposure to an ion beam.

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11. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said exposing step comprises exposure to an electron beam ionization.
12. (Withdrawn) A method for collection of DNA-containing material from the surface of the skin of a subject comprising:
 - contacting a collecting surface of a collection device with the skin of the subject,
 - and
 - collecting DNA-containing material of the subject.
13. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said collecting surface is treated with a wetting agent.
14. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said collection device contacts the skin of the subject at the base of the nose of the subject.
15. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said collection device contacts the skin of the subject behind the ear of the subject.
16. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 12 further comprising the step of obtaining said collection device from a kit, said kit having been exposed to effective quantity of an agent for disabling DNA from interfering with subsequent specimen specific DNA analysis.

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17. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said agent is gamma radiation.
18. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said agent is ethylene oxide.
19. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said agent is an ion beam.
20. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said agent is an electron beam ionization.
21. (Withdrawn) A method for collection of DNA-containing material from the surface of the skin of a subject comprising:
assembling into a housing, a kit having at least one device for collection of DNA-containing material from the surface of the skin,
exposing said housing containing said kit to an effective quantity of an agent for disabling DNA from interfering with subsequent specimen specific DNA analysis,
rubbing a collection device from said kit on the skin of the subject, and
collecting DNA-containing material from the subject.
22. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said agent is gamma radiation.
23. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said agent is ethylene oxide.

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24. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said agent is an ion beam.

25. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein said agent is an electron beam ionization.

26. (Previously Presented) A device for selective collection from one of two adjacent surfaces of a subject's body of material containing DNA comprising:
a device for collecting material containing DNA, said device having a collection portion, said collection portion having a front surface and a rear surface, said rear surface having a covering thereon to prevent collection of material containing DNA and said front surface is available for collection of material containing DNA,
a housing for holding said device, and
a treatment applied to said housing after said housing is filled with said device, said treatment comprising an effective quantity of an agent for disabling DNA from interfering with subsequent specimen specific DNA analysis.

27. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 26 wherein said material is comprised of epithelial cells.

28. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 26 wherein said material is comprised of cheek cells.

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29. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 26 wherein said material is comprised of tongue cells.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 26 wherein said agent is gamma radiation.

33. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 26 wherein said agent is ethylene oxide.

34. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 26 wherein said agent is an ion beam.

35. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 26 wherein said agent is an electron beam ionization.

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36. (Previously Presented) A device for collection of material containing DNA from the surface of a the cheek within the mouth while avoiding collection of material containing DNA from the tongue, gums or teeth, the device comprising:

a collection portion, said collection portion having a front surface and a rear surface, said rear surface having a covering thereon to prevent collection of material containing DNA from the tongue and said front surface is available for contacting the inside of the subject's cheek for collection of material containing DNA,

a housing for holding said device, and

a treatment applied to said housing after said housing is filled with said device, said treatment comprising an effective quantity of an agent for disabling DNA from interfering with subsequent specimen specific DNA analysis.

37. (Cancelled).

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38. (Previously Presented) A device for collection of material containing DNA from the surface of ~~a~~ the tongue while avoiding collection of material containing DNA from the adjacent mouth tissue, the device comprising:

a collection portion, said collection portion having a front surface and a rear surface, said rear surface having a covering thereon to prevent collection of material containing DNA from mouth tissue adjacent to the tongue and said front surface is available for contacting the subject's tongue for collection of material containing DNA,

a housing for holding said device, and

a treatment applied to said housing after said housing is filled with said device, said treatment comprising an effective quantity of an agent for disabling DNA from interfering with subsequent specimen specific DNA analysis.

39. (Cancelled).

40. (Withdrawn) A method of collecting material containing DNA from a subject comprising the steps of:

placing a device for collecting material containing DNA within a housing,

exposing said housing and said device placed in said housing to an effective quantity of an agent for disabling DNA from interfering with subsequent specimen specific DNA analysis,

restraining the subject; and

wiping said device on the skin of the subject.

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41. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 40 wherein said exposing step comprises exposure to gamma radiation.

42. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 40 wherein said exposing step comprises exposure to ethylene oxide.

43. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 40 wherein said exposing step comprises exposure to an ion beam.

44. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 40 wherein said exposing step comprises exposure to electron beam ionization.

45. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 40 wherein said wiping step is performed on the skin behind the ear of the subject.

46. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 45 wherein said wiping step further comprising the step of approaching a subject from behind to perform said wiping step.

47. (Withdrawn) A kit for the collection of DNA from a subject comprising a holder containing a sample collection substrate said holder having a plurality of voids therein providing access to said substrate to allow skin cells scraped from the subject to pass through said voids for capture on said paper.

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48. (Withdrawn) The kit as claimed in claim 47 wherein said substrate is placed into a housing and said housing containing said substrate is exposed to an effective quantity of an agent for disabling DNA from interfering with subsequent specimen specific DNA analysis.

49. (Withdrawn) The kit as claimed in claim 48 wherein said agent comprises exposure to gamma radiation.

50. (Withdrawn) The kit as claimed in claim 48 wherein said agent comprises exposure to ethylene oxide.

51. (Withdrawn) The kit as claimed in claim 48 wherein said agent comprises exposure to an ion beam.

52. (Withdrawn) The kit as claimed in claim 48 wherein said agent comprises exposure to electron beam ionization.

53. (Withdrawn) The kit as claimed in claim 48 further comprising sealing means for covering said voids after use.

54. (Withdrawn) The kit as claimed in claim 47 wherein said substrate is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of Whatman FTA, S&S IsoCode, S&S 903, and S&S 900.

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55. (Withdrawn) The kit as claimed in claim 47 wherein said substrate is comprised of an adhesive material applied to the surface of said substrate.

Claims 56 – 65 (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) A kit for the collection of DNA from a subject comprising a sample collection substrate for collection of DNA from a subject thereon, said substrate having a first side and a second side, said substrate having a protective layer on said first side to limit contamination of said first side, said substrate having a second protective layer attached to a portion of said second side said second protective layer being foldable over said second side to prevent contamination of said second side, a housing for containing said sample collection substrate therein, and a treatment applied to said housing after said housing contains said sample collection substrate therein, said treatment comprising an effective quantity of an agent for disabling DNA from interfering with subsequent specimen specific DNA analysis.

67. (Cancelled).

68. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 66 wherein said agent comprises exposure to gamma radiation.

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69. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 66 wherein said agent comprises exposure to ethylene oxide.

70. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 66 wherein said agent comprises exposure to an ion beam.

71. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 66 wherein said agent comprises exposure to electron beam ionization.

72. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 66 wherein said substrate is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of Whatman FTA, S&S IsoCode, S&S 903, and S&S 900.

73. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 66 wherein said sample portion is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of Dacron, nylon, plastic, cotton, and paper.

74. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 66 wherein said sample portion is comprised of an adhesive surface.

75. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 74 wherein said adhesion properties of said adhesive surface are variable.

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76. (Previously Presented) A kit for the collection of DNA from a subject comprising:
a sample collection substrate for collection of DNA from a subject thereon, said substrate
having a first side and a second side,
said substrate having a protective layer on said first side to prevent contamination of said
first side,
a second protective layer for covering said substrate second side, said second protective
layer connecting with said first protective layer to form a protective pouch for
holding said substrate prior to use,
a housing for containing said substrate, and
a treatment comprising an effective quantity of an agent for disabling DNA from
interfering with subsequent specimen specific DNA analysis applied to said
housing after said housing contains said substrate.

77. (Cancelled).

78. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 76 wherein said agent comprises
exposure to gamma radiation.

79. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 76 wherein said agent comprises
exposure to ethylene oxide.

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80. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 76 wherein said agent comprises exposure to an ion beam.

81. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 76 wherein said agent comprises exposure to electron beam ionization.

82. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 76 wherein said substrate is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of Whatman FTA, S&S IsoCode, S&S 903, and S&S 900.

83. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 76 wherein said sample substrate is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of Dacron, nylon, plastic, cotton and paper.

84. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 76 wherein said sample substrate is comprised of an adhesive surface.

85. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 84 wherein said adhesive strength of said adhesive surface are variable.

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86. (Previously Presented) A device for the collection of DNA from a subject comprising:
a sample collection substrate for collection of DNA from a subject thereon, said substrate having a first side and a second side,
said substrate having a protective layer on said first side to limit contamination of said first side,
a second protective layer for covering said substrate second side, said second protective layer connecting with said first protective layer to form a protective pouch for holding said substrate prior to use,
a housing for containing said substrate, and
a treatment comprising an effective quantity of an agent for disabling DNA from interfering with subsequent specimen specific DNA analysis applied to said housing after said housing contains said substrate.

87. (Cancelled).

88. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 86 wherein said agent comprises exposure to gamma radiation.

89. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 86 wherein said agent comprises exposure to ethylene oxide.

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90. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 86 wherein said agent comprises exposure to an ion beam.

91. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 86 wherein said agent comprises exposure to electron beam ionization.

92. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 86 wherein said substrate is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of Whatman FTA, S&S IsoCode, S&S 903, and S&S 900.

93. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 86 wherein said sample substrate is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of Dacron, nylon, plastic, cotton and paper.

94. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 86 wherein said sample substrate is comprised of an adhesive surface.

95. (Previously Presented) The kit as claimed in claim 94 wherein said adhesive strength of said adhesive surface are variable.

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96. (Withdrawn) A method of collecting DNA-containing material from a subject comprising providing a sticky collection substrate, applying the fingerprint surface of the finger or thumb of the subject to said substrate, and allowing DNA-containing material from the fingerprint surface of the finger or thumb of the subject to adhere to said collection substrate.

97. (Withdrawn) A method of associating fingerprint evidence obtained from a subject with DNA evidence obtained from a subject comprising: providing a sticky collection substrate, applying a fingerprint surface of the finger or thumb of the subject to said substrate to generate a fingerprint of the subject in the substrate, allowing DNA-containing material from the fingerprint surface of the finger or thumb of the subject to adhere to said collection substrate, and recording an image of the generated fingerprint of the subject prior to use of the collection substrate for DNA analysis.

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98. (Withdrawn) A method of collecting fingerprint evidence from a subject and DNA evidence from a subject comprising:

providing plurality of a sticky collection substrate portions,

applying a fingerprint surface of a finger or thumb of the subject to a first

collection substrate portion to generate a first fingerprint in said first
substrate portion,

reapplying said fingerprint surface of said finger or thumb to a second substrate

portion to generate a second fingerprint in said second substrate portion,

and

using said one of said first or second fingerprints in said first or second substrate

portions for analysis of DNA-containing material collected from said

fingerprint surface.

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99. (Withdrawn) A method of avoiding prejudice of forensic specimen testing results at a forensic testing laboratory comprising:

providing a specimen collection device, said device having a specimen collection

portion and a subject information portion,

obtaining a forensic specimen from a subject with said specimen collection portion,

applying a first barcoded label to said specimen collection portion,

applying a second barcoded label to said subject information portion, said second

barcoded label having an identical barcode to said first barcoded label,

transmitting said specimen collection portion with said first barcode to a laboratory for

testing

retaining said subject information portion.

100. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 100 wherein said forensic specimen is free

DNA or DNA-containing material.

101. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 100 wherein said forensic specimen is a

fingerprint or thumbprint.

102. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 100 wherein said forensic specimen is

urine or other body fluid.